



Self-organised study abroad semester as a free mover

If you do not wish to take part in the [exchange programmes](#) offered by the Faculty or the [Global Office of Goethe University](#), or if your application has not been or cannot be considered, a self-organised study abroad semester is a good alternative.

Which University?

Firstly, you need to decide which country you would like to go to or which university you would like to study at.

Draw up a catalogue of criteria according to which you will make your decision. The most important decision parameters include

- Quality of the host university
- Quality of study programme
- Recognition of courses
- Financial aspects

Please take into account that you need to speak the language of instruction in the host country well. Many universities outside the English-speaking world offer an English-language teaching programme.

Other criteria such as integration programmes for international students, student initiatives at the host university, the study location and any existing local contacts may also be relevant.

Quality and Reputation of the University

You should make a careful selection based on the quality of the university. Take the USA as an example: there are around 10,000 universities there with enormous differences in quality, i.e. top universities in the so-called "Ivy League" and those whose level of education is poor and not recognised. Therefore, make sure that the institution is accredited (e.g. by [AACSB](#), [EQUIS](#), [AMBA](#)) and take a look at the rankings.

Please also refer to the [Anabin](#) database of the ZAB (Central Office for Foreign Education). The university of your choice should definitely be rated H+.

Recognition of Courses

Recognition of your courses is also possible for self-organised studies, provided that the defined requirements are met and the university is a qualified educational institution (see section "Which university"). You can find out about the recognition modalities on the corresponding website of the Examination Office, please see [here](#). There you will also find a "Learning Agreement" form.

Your contact person is Ms Silvia Benzel (e-mail: pruefungsamt@wiwi.uni-frankfurt.de). Please clarify the recognition of your course program before your stay abroad.

Funding

As a freemover, you generally have to pay tuition fees at your host university. Good universities in the USA charge at least 20,000 dollars tuition fees per semester. An exception is the Scandinavian education area, where no tuition fees are charged from EU citizens.

Information on financing your semester abroad can be found on the following websites:

- [DAAD scholarship database](#) (good overview of scholarship opportunities from foundations and institutions such as Fulbright)
- [PROMOS programme](#) (the university's Global Office offers scholarships twice a year)
- [Study foundations](#) ([Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes](#) can be found [here](#))
- [BAföG abroad](#)
- [Educational loans](#)
- [Sports scholarship](#)

Application at the Host University

Please check the university's website for information on the application process and application deadline. You will often find the relevant information under the heading "International Office" or "International Students" or "Admission".

Language certificate: The application documents usually include a language certificate, e.g. the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) for an application in the USA or an IELTS test. For common language certificates, see [here](#). In Europe in particular, a [DAAD language certificate](#) is often sufficient. You can obtain this after a successful examination at the [Centre for Languages at Goethe University](#) or at the [Eloquia language school](#) in Frankfurt.

Letter of recommendation (if necessary): For a letter of recommendation, please contact a professor/lecturer of the Faculty, preferably during office hours and in person. You should have achieved a very good or good grade in the corresponding subject or you may address someone who can judge you well, for example if you have a student assistant or tutor position. Relevant documents to present are transcript of records and a CV. Please clearly

state your motivation for the semester abroad and be clear about the courses you will attend. Even if the lecturer does not know you personally, she/he will usually be willing to help you, provided you have a good academic record and a convincing motivation.

Transcript of records: You can obtain a transcript of records in English in your QIS account.

Information/counselling

For many of your questions, the [information provided by the DAAD](#) and the [DAAD brochures on studying abroad](#) will be helpful. To get an overview of the educational system, study conditions, tuition fees, cost of living, etc., we recommend the [DAAD's country information](#) (only available in German).

Last update 19.06.2024